



Things to know about Medicare Advantage vaccine coverage

The who, what, and where of Medicare Advantage vaccine coverage

Coverage for vaccines under Original Medicare may fall under Part A, Part B or Part D. That means individual vaccines may be administered and billed differently under our Medicare Advantage plans, depending on whether the vaccine is considered a Part D benefit.

Coverage for vaccines such as influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis B for intermediate and high-risk patients is provided under Part B, which means it's a benefit under the Medicare Advantage private fee-for-service coverage and our Medicare Advantage PPO. These services are usually provided in a physician's office or by mass immunizers.

With the inception of the prescription drug program, Part D plans are required to provide coverage for vaccines that are Medicare benefits and are not covered under Parts A or B, such as the shingles vaccine. For Part D vaccines provided on or after Jan. 1, 2008, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidelines state that both the vaccine serum and the cost of administering the serum should be billed to the member's Part D or prescription drug plan.

Medicare Plus Blue PFFSSM, Medicare Plus Blue PPOSM, and Prescription Blue PDPSM

Certain Medicare Plus Blue PFFS, Medicare Plus Blue PPO, and Prescription Blue PDP individual and group members have Part D coverage through BCBSM and may obtain Part D vaccines at the pharmacy or at the doctor's office:

Obtain Part D vaccine at...	Administered by...	Costs
Pharmacy	Pharmacy	Pharmacies collect only one copayment or coinsurance for both dispensing and administering Part D-covered vaccines.
Doctor	Doctor	Members pay for the entire cost of vaccine and administration and are reimbursed by BCBSM, less any copayment or coinsurance. Alternatively, doctors may collect the copayment or coinsurance from the member, submit the prescription drug claim and be reimbursed by BCBSM.
Pharmacy	Doctor	Members pay the copayment or coinsurance to the pharmacy and pay all doctor charges for administering the vaccine. Members may be reimbursed by BCBSM.

Always check the member's ID card to determine whether they have Part D coverage through BCBSM and submit claims to the appropriate prescription drug plan. BCBSM prescription drug claim forms can be accessed at bcbsm.com/medicare/formsClaims.shtml.